

NOTICES OF FUNDS.

NOTICE.
FROM and after 1st January, 1874, the business of the undersigned will be transacted, and carried on under the name and style of "NEWMAN & CO."

WALTER NEWMAN.
JOHN DITTONS.
1704, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

NOTICE.
THE interest and responsibility of the late firm, ceased on the 16th August last.

NOTICE.
THE business of the undersigned will, from this date, be conducted under the name and style of "EDWARD NEWMAN."

EDWARD NEWMAN.
ROBERT LYALL.
1571 Hongkong, 22nd September, 1873.

NOTICE.
THE interest and responsibility of our firm, of Mr. JOHN H. SMITH, ceased on the 30th of April last.

THE DAILY PRESS.
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 28TH, 1873.

Among the little things which show the way the wind is blowing, it may be worth while to notice a favourable indication of our gainings more better standing among the Chinese, in the increasing number who speak English, in place of the old barbarous pidgin. It is observed by those who have been away from the Colony for some time, and have returned, that the language generally spoken by servants, and even by coolies, approaches much more nearly to English than that which was formerly in vogue, while there is a very fair proportion of the Chinese in the employ of foreigners who speak English with much fluency and correctness.

No doubt the Government Schools have done much towards bringing about this result, and if the educational arrangements in Hongkong had no other effect than this, they would repay to a great extent the trouble and expense which has been taken in regard to them. There can be little question that no thing has stood so much in the way of a proper understanding between natives and foreigners, than the abominable jargon which has been almost the only means of communication between them up to the present time. It may be a curious speculation, suited to Amateur Sinologists and others scientifically disposed, how pidgin English first came into use. It is no doubt a literal translation of the Chinese dialect and construction, and it is curious to observe that there are actually dialects of pidgin English varying according to the Chinese dialect of the place where they are spoken. The Cantonese is, of course, the Mandarin of pidgin English, the Babel which in its original purity has been carried throughout China, and after a time has become modified, as it has been adopted by the natives of other districts who approximated to theirs to their own. One effect of pidgin English is of a very peculiar character. By its being thrown into a quasi-Chinese form, a Chinaman unacquainted with it, and having a slight knowledge of the Chinese language, is led to the conclusion that it really was very much like an out-of-the-way Chinese dialect. He would recognize its sharp monosyllabic sounds, and could catch to some extent the construction; and the effect of this would naturally be to lead him to conclude that the foreign language was only a very barbarous kind of Chinese, such as might naturally be expected from very barbarous people; and it would never occur to him that foreigners had distinct languages of their own with a literature worth studying, or could ever become learned men until they acquired the proper Chinese language, of which their own seemed to him to be a very coarse and corrupt version.

Had the disputes also which take place with boys, coolies, and other natives, who come into contact with foreigners, have their origin in the misunderstandings resulting from pidgin English. Neither side thoroughly understands the other; and the Chinaman repeatedly carries off with a half understood order, and thereby incurs the natural indignation of his master for his obstinacy or disobedience. A speed of a knowledge of proper English and other foreign languages among the Chinese, cannot thus fail to increase their respect for foreigners; and it is impossible to master a language without imbibing to some extent the spirit of the people who speak it—at least as far as to make it more easy to understand their wants, and to avoid giving offence by going counter to their wishes or habits. It may be hoped, therefore, that the improvement at present visible is only the commencement of a change destined to continue; and that the day may come when Chinese will speak to Europeans in something worthy of the name of a language, in place of meeting their half way in the ridiculous pidgin of "Pidgin." The Chinese are good linguists, and have the faculty of speaking any European language, French, English, or German, with scarcely any accent, and if they set about it in the proper way, would have far less difficulty in mastering a European language than a foreigner has in acquiring one not his own. Even if it is a matter of a little extra trouble, Chinamen, with their sensitiveness to ridicule, would scarcely condescend to speak "Pidgin," if they only knew how extremely absurd it makes them appear.

H.M. 80th Regiment marched through the city yesterday, headed by its band. They happened to pass the Supreme Court, and proceeded to the barracks, where they were to be stationed for some time.

A MATERIAL CHARACTER.—(Continued from page 1.) Now, what is the character of the plaintiff in this case? "Witness," the character is a slightly unimpaired character. "Witness," the character is a slightly unimpaired character. "Witness," the character is a slightly unimpaired character.

An exchange says that "Young men in England are following their morose engagements in consequence of the high price of coal. They should stand back on that account. They ought to know that a man's wife and children are not enough for him without the use of a pound of coal."

At Rand Street a great sale at "Tortworth," 20 cents, the best coal named "Dunlop," was sold for 700 cents. This sale was conducted by a man who was a partner in the party of the purchaser, who took her across the Atlantic, but her property had multiplied till at the present moment their total value is reckoned at 250,000.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

October 27th.

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